(c) and (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development has informed that 6 radio stations have been commissioned at Allahabad, Bangalore, Visakhpatnam, Coimbatore, Lucknow and Mumbai. The 7th station at Bhopal is likely to be commissioned shortly. 23 stations are likely to be commissioned during 2002-03. The remaining 10 stations will be commissioned during the next financial year.

(e) A provision of Rs. 15.10 crores was made during the year 2001-02.

Incidence of kidney stones

*403. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "North India's eating habits, climate cause kidney stones" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 26th July, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the incidence of kidney stones is rising in Delhi and adjoining States mainly because people here consume fatty, milk-based food and a lot of fried food whereas South Indians eat steamed food;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to use electronic media to make the public aware of all such diseases; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The dietary habits and climatic conditions influence formation of kidney stone. The incidence of kidney stone is relatively high in Delhi and adjoining State. There are, however, no specific studies to show any rising trend in the incidence of kidney stones in Delhi and adjoining areas.

(c) and (d) Creating public awareness through media about various diseases is continuous process. However, the patients visiting various Central Government Hospitals/AIIMS are given counselling on proper nutrition and the food habits.